



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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District of Arizona*

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TUCSON MAN CHARGED WITH POSSESSION OF 1678 KILOGRAMS OF MARIJUANA

TUCSON, Ariz. -- A federal grand jury in Tucson, Ariz. returned a two-count indictment against Roberto Romero, 35, of Tucson, on June 7, 2006, for a violation of Possession with Intent to Distribute Marijuana and Maintaining a Drug-Involved Premises.

The indictment alleges that on or about May 3, 2006, Romero possessed approximately 1678 kilograms of marijuana. In addition, the Indictment alleges that Romero used a Tucson residence for distribution of Marijuana. The Indictment contains a Forfeiture Allegation seeking to seize this residence. The defendant was arrested on May 11, 2006 and remains in custody.

A conviction for Possession with Intent to Distribute more than 1000 kilograms of Marijuana carries a maximum penalty of life in prison with a mandatory minimum sentence of ten years, a \$4,000,000 fine or both. A conviction for Maintaining a Drug Involved Premises carries a maximum penalty of not more than 20 years in prison, a \$500,000 fine or both. In determining an actual sentence, Judge Frank R. Zapata will consult the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

An indictment is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted by Special Agents from Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The prosecution is being handled by Albert Kleiner, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz.

CASE NUMBER: CR-06-1056-TUC
RELEASE NUMBER: 2006-096(Romero)

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